

### **Cohort 2014 Five-Year Graduation Rates – State Results**

The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (ESE) calculates and reports graduation rates as part of overall efforts to improve educational outcomes for all students.

The 2014 five-year cohort graduation rate is calculated as follows:

$$\frac{\text{\# of students in cohort (denominator) who graduate in 5 years or less}}{[\text{\# of 1st time entering 9th graders in 2010-11}] - \text{transfers out/deaths} + \text{transfers in}}$$

The 2014 five-year cohort graduation rate for Massachusetts public high schools was 88.5 percent which represented an increase of 2.4 percentage points from the four-year rate for the 2014 cohort and is the highest five-year graduation rate since 2007. The 2014 five-year rate increased by 0.8 percentage points when compared to the 2013 cohort five-year rate of 87.7 percent.

Additional critical findings of the report include:

- African American males graduated at a rate that was 5.3 percentage points higher than their four-year rate.
- Students with disabilities had a five-year rate that was 4.4 percentage points higher than their four-year rate.
- Other special population subgroups including low income and high needs students also increased their four-year rates by 4.1 and 3.8 percentage points, respectively.
- 74.9 percent of school districts and 67.6 percent of high schools had a higher five-year graduation rate than the state average of 88.5 percent.

**Table 1. Cohort Graduation Rates 2006-2015**

	<b>2006 Cohort</b>	<b>2007 Cohort</b>	<b>2008 Cohort</b>	<b>2009 Cohort</b>	<b>2010 Cohort</b>	<b>2011 Cohort</b>	<b>2012 Cohort</b>	<b>2013 Cohort</b>	<b>2014 Cohort</b>	<b>2015 Cohort</b>
<b>4-Year Graduation Rate</b>	79.9%	80.9%	81.2%	81.5%	82.1%	83.4%	84.7%	85.0%	86.1%	87.3%
<b>5-Year Graduation Rate</b>	82.7%	84.0%	84.2%	84.0%	84.7%	86.3%	87.5%	87.7%	88.5%	N/A

The following tables further summarize the five-year results for the 2014 cohort. The results are based on data submitted by school districts through the Department's Student Information Management System.

**Table 2. Graduation Results for All Students and Student Subgroups<sup>1</sup>**

		<b>Graduates</b>		<b>Non-Graduates<sup>2</sup></b>				
	2014 Cohort # <sup>3</sup>	5-Year Rate	2014 4-Yr Difference	Still in School	Non-Grad Completer <sup>4</sup>	HS Equiv.	Dropped Out	Expelled
All Students	73,168	88.5%	+2.4	2.1%	2.1%	.8%	6.4%	0.1%
Female	35,784	90.7%	+1.7	1.6%	1.7%	.8%	5.2%	0.0%
Male	37,384	86.3%	+2.9	2.6%	2.5%	0.9%	7.6%	0.1%
ELL <sup>5</sup>	5,134	69.8%	+5.9	3.8%	9.9%	0.4 %	16.0%	0.1%
Students w/ Disabilities	14,195	73.5%	+4.4	8.6%	5.4%	1.1%	11.4%	0.1%
Low Income	31,156	79.6%	+4.1	3.3%	3.9%	1.4%	11.7%	0.1%
High Needs <sup>6</sup>	38,171	80.3%	+3.8	4.0%	3.7%	1.3%	10.6%	0.1%
African American	6,718	80.2%	+5.3	4.3%	5.0%	0.7%	9.6%	0.1%
Asian	4,086	94.1%	+2.0	1.1%	1.5%	0.4 %	3.0%	0.0%
Hispanic	10,850	73.5%	+4.3	3.7%	5.5%	1.4%	15.8%	0.1%
Multi-race, Non-Hisp.	1,449	87.2%	+2.3	1.7%	2.5%	1.0%	7.6%	0.1%
Native American	162	81.5%	+5.6	3.1%	4.3%	1.2%	9.9%	0.0%
Pacific Islander	87	80.5 %	+1.2	3.4%	3.4%	2.3%	10.3%	0.0%
White	49,816	92.4%	+1.5	1.6%	1.0%	.7%	4.2%	0.1%
Urban	24,347	77.8%	+4.0	3.8%	4.4%	1.2%	12.7%	0.1%

<sup>1</sup> Due to rounding, row percentages may not equal 100 percent.

<sup>2</sup> In the reporting of aggregate results, students are included in the first column (from left to right) for which they qualify. For example, students who dropped out or were expelled, but earned a GED, are included in the GED category. Students are only reported in one category.

<sup>3</sup> The cohort count is as of the end of 2013-14 school year. The status (e.g. graduate, enrolled) is updated as of October 1, 2014.

<sup>4</sup> Non-Grad Completer includes 1) students who earned a certificate of attainment, 2) students who met local graduation requirements but the district does not offer certificates of attainment, and 3) students with special needs who reached the maximum age (22) but did not graduate.

<sup>5</sup> The limited English proficient, special education, and low income subgroups include all students that were reported in those categories at least once in high school. Students can be counted in more than one group.

<sup>6</sup> High Needs subgroup includes students categorized as any of the following as of October 1, 2014: 1) Low Income, 2) Limited English Proficient, 3) Students with Disabilities, as well as students categorized as Limited English Proficient during the prior two school years (2012-13 and/or 2011-12).

**Table 3. Graduation Results for Race/Ethnicity Groups by Gender**

		<b>Graduates</b>		<b>Non-Graduates</b>				
	2014 Cohort #	5-Year Rate	2014 4-Yr Difference	Still in School	Non-Grad Completer	HS Equiv.	Dropped Out	Expelled
African American Female	3,260	83.7%	+4.5	3.4%	4.4%	0.5%	8.0%	0.1 %
African American Male	3,458	77.0%	+6.2	5.1%	5.6%	1.0%	11.1%	0.2%
Asian Female	2,069	95.2%	+1.6	1.0%	1.1%	0.3%	2.3%	0.0%
Asian Male	2,017	92.9%	+2.3	1.1%	1.9%	0.4%	3.7%	0.0%
Hispanic Female	5,253	77.9%	+3.5	3.1%	4.5%	1.5%	13.0%	0.0%
Hispanic Male	5,597	69.3%	+4.9	4.3%	6.4%	1.3%	18.5%	0.3%
Multi-race Female	734	89.5%	+1.0	1.2%	2.0%	1.1%	6.1%	0.0%
Multi-race Male	715	84.8%	+3.5	2.2%	2.9%	0.8%	9.1%	0.1%
Native American Female	74	81.1%	+2.7	1.4%	4.1%	2.7%	10.8%	0.0%
Native American Male	88	81.8%	+7.9	4.5%	4.5%	0.0%	9.1%	0.0%
Pacific Islander Female	38	89.5%	+0.0	2.6%	2.6%	2.6%	2.6%	0.0%
Pacific Islander Male	49	73.5 %	+2.1	4.1%	4.1%	2.0%	16.3%	0.0%
White Female	24,356	94.1%	+1.0	1.1%	0.8%	0.7%	3.3%	0.0%
White Male	25,460	90.9%	+2.0	2.0%	1.2%	0.8%	5.0%	0.1%

**Table 4. Graduation Results for Students Receiving Special Education Services by Gender**

		<b>Graduates</b>		<b>Non-Graduates</b>				
	2014 Cohort #	5-Year Rate	2014 4-Yr Difference	Still in School	Non-Grad Completer	HS Equiv.	Dropped Out	Expelled
Students w/ Disabilities Female	5,312	75.4%	+3.9	8.0%	5.1%	1.0%	10.4%	0.0%
Students w/ Disabilities Male	8,883	72.3%	+4.7	8.9%	5.6%	1.1%	12.0%	0.1%

**Table 5. Graduation Results for Low-Income Students by Gender**

		<b>Graduates</b>		<b>Non-Graduates</b>				
	2014 Cohort #	5-Year Rate	2014 4-Yr Difference	Still in School	Non-Grad Completer	HS Equiv.	Dropped Out	Expelled
Low-Income Female	15,102	83.0%	+3.2	2.7%	3.3%	1.3%	9.6%	0.0%
Low-Income Male	16,054	76.4%	+4.9	3.9%	4.5%	1.4%	13.7%	0.2%

**Table 6. Graduation Results for High Needs Students**

		<b>Graduates</b>		<b>Non-Graduates</b>				
	2014 Cohort #	5-Year Rate	2014 4-Yr Difference	Still in School	Non-Grad Completer	HS Equiv.	Dropped Out	Expelled
High Needs Female	17,668	83.4%	+3.1	3.2%	3.3%	1.2%	8.9%	0.0%
High Needs Male	20,503	77.7%	+4.5	4.7%	4.1%	1.3%	12.0%	0.2%

**Table 7. Graduation Results for English Language Learner Students**

		<b>Graduates</b>		<b>Non-Graduates</b>				
	2014 Cohort #	5-Year Rate	2014 4-Yr Difference	Still in School	Non-Grad Completer	HS Equiv.	Dropped Out	Expelled
ELL Female	2,433	73.5%	+6.0	3.3%	9.5%	0.5%	13.3%	0.0%
ELL Male	2,701	66.6%	+5.9	4.2%	10.3%	0.3%	18.4%	0.2%
ELL in Original Cohort	3,128	72.2%	+3.8	3.8%	7.3%	0.4%	16.1%	0.1%
ELL Entered Cohort after 10/1/10	2,006	69.4%	+12.4	3.9%	9.8%	0.2%	16.5%	0.2%

**Table 8. Graduation Results for Race/Ethnicity by English Language Learner Status**

		Graduates		Non-Graduates				
	2014 Cohort #	5-Year Rate	2014 4-Yr Difference	Still in School	Non-Grad Completer	HS Equiv.	Dropped Out	Expelled
African American ELL	1,174	76.4%	+7.9	3.9%	10.3%	0.1%	9.3%	0.0%
African American Non-ELL	5,544	81.0%	+4.7	4.4%	3.9%	0.9%	9.7%	0.2
Asian ELL	810	87.3%	+5.9	1.2%	4.8%	0.5%	6.2%	0.0%
Asian Non-ELL	3,276	95.8%	+1.0	1.0%	0.7%	0.3%	2.2%	0.0%
Hispanic ELL	2,656	59.7 %	+5.0	4.6%	11.9%	0.5%	23.1%	0.2%
Hispanic Non-ELL	8,194	77.9%	+4.0	3.4%	3.4%	1.6%	13.5%	0.1%
Multi-race ELL	30	53.3%	+3.3	13.3%	23.3%	0.0%	10.0%	0.0%
Multi-race Non-ELL	1,419	87.9%	+2.2	1.5%	2.0%	1.0%	7.5%	0.1%
Native American ELL	6	50.0%	0.0	0.0%	33.3%	0.0%	16.7%	0.0%
Native American Non-ELL	156	82.7%	+5.8	3.2%	3.2%	1.3%	9.6%	0.0%
Pacific-Islander ELL	7	85.7%	+0.0	0.0%	14.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Pacific Islander Non-ELL	80	80.0%	+1.2	3.8%	2.5%	2.5%	11.3%	0.0%
White ELL	451	82.3%	+5.1	2.7%	5.1%	0.4%	9.5%	0.0%
White Non-ELL	49,365	92.5%	+1.4	1.6%	1.0%	0.8%	4.1%	0.1%

**Table 9. Graduation Results for Non-Mobile and Mobile Students**

		Graduates		Non-Graduates				
High Schools Attended	2014 Cohort #	5-Year Rate	2014 4-Yr Difference	Still in School	Non-Grad Completer	HS Equiv.	Dropped Out	Expelled
One School	53,664	91.7%	+1.5	1.3%	1.5%	0.6%	4.8%	0.1%
Two Schools	16,162	83.2%	+3.7	3.5%	2.9%	1.2%	9.1%	0.1%
Three Schools	2,606	64.9%	+7.3	8.3%	6.3%	2.2%	18.0%	0.2%
Four or More Schools	736	49.0%	+11.2	11.3%	11.5%	3.3%	24.6%	0.3%

**Table 10. Competency Determination (CD) Status for Select Non-Graduate Groups**

	Still in School			Dropped Out		
	Number	CD	No CD	Number	CD	No CD
All Students	1,561	27.7%	72.3%	2,560	63.2%	36.8%
Female	580	28.3%	71.7%	1,061	63.7%	36.3%
Male	981	27.3%	72.7%	1,499	62.9%	37.1%
ELL	193	22.3%	77.7%	308	26.3%	73.7%
Low Income	1,021	30.4%	60.6%	1,951	58.3%	41.7%
Students w/ Disabilities	1,214	18.8%	81.2%	875	54.3%	45.7%
High Needs	1,523	26.5%	73.5%	1,270	58.8%	41.2%
African American	289	26.6%	73.4%	335	52.2%	47.8%
Asian	43	25.6%	74.4%	68	64.7%	35.3%
Hispanic	401	31.7%	68.3%	700	47.7%	52.3%
Multi-race, Non-Hisp.	25	24.0%	76.0%	63	66.7%	33.3%
Native American	5			11	81.8%	18.2%
Pacific Islander	3			5		
White	795	26.0%	74.0%	1,378	73.4%	26.6%

**Table 11. Distribution of Graduation Rates in the Aggregate for Districts<sup>7</sup>**

2014 Five-Year Graduation Rate	Number of Districts	Percentage of Districts
< 50%	6	2.1%
50 - <60%	0	0.0%
60 - <70%	8	2.7%
70 - <80%	16	5.5%
80 - <85%	22	7.5%
85 - <90%	42	14.4%
90 - <95%	81	27.7%
95 – 100%	117	40.1%
Total	292	100.0%

<sup>7</sup> Includes districts with at least six students in the cohort. District analyses include charter schools, regional school districts and vocational/technical high schools.

**Table 12. Distribution of Graduation Rates in the Aggregate for Schools<sup>8</sup>**

<b>2014 Five-Year Graduation Rate</b>	<b>Number of Schools</b>	<b>Percentage of Schools</b>
< 50%	39	10.2%
50 - <60%	9	2.3%
60 - <70%	11	2.9%
70 - <80%	25	6.5%
80 - <85%	19	5.0%
85 - <90%	53	13.8%
90 - <95%	83	21.7%
95 – 100%	144	37.6%
Total	383	100.0%

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<sup>8</sup> Includes schools with at least six students in the cohort